REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested for claims 30-60.

Claims 30-43, 47-51, and 59-60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,4587,479 to *Ren et al.* (*Ren et al.* '479). Claims 44-46 and 52-58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ren et al.* '479 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,296,964 to *Ren*.

Claim 30, from which the other pending claims depend, has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of part of original claim 33 and defines a fuel cell comprising an electrolyte provided with electrodes in the form of an anode and a cathode on opposite sides of the electrolyte, and a system of flow ducts arranged so as to bring a first flow containing a first reactant into contact with an anode active surface and to bring a second flow containing a second reactant into contact with a cathode active surface, wherein the system of flow ducts comprises a distribution arrangement adapted to distribute a flow incoming to a cell space at least partially defined by at least one of the anode active surface and the cathode active surface uniformly over an inlet region which extends along the at least one of the anode active surface and the cathode active surface, and wherein the system of flow ducts comprises a collecting arrangement adapted to allow a flow outgoing from the cell space to leave the cell space within an outlet region.

Ren et al. '479 discloses a fuel cell arrangement wherein a methanol reservoir 12 is placed in a methanol solution container 31 in a cell body 10. A membrane electrode 14 is sandwiched between anode and cathode backings 16 and 18, and perforated metal currecnt collectors 22, 24. The methanol in the reservoir 12 is allowed to communicate with the membrane electrodes 14 via the anode backing, through the holes in the perforated metal current collector, and through holes (apparently 30) in a compression cover plate (not numbered)

including a compression reinforcement bar 29. *Ren et al.* '479 has no structure corresponding to a cell space at least partially defined by at least one of an anode active surface and a cathode anode surface, nor does it disclose a system of flow ducts comprising a distribution arrangement adapted to distribute a flow incoming to the cell space uniformly over an inlet region which extends along the at least one of the anode active surface and the cathode active surface and/or a collecting arrangement adapted to allow a flow outgoing from the cell space to leave the cell space within an outlet region.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claim 30 is not anticipated by *Ren et al.* '479. *Ren* does not cure these defects of *Ren et al.* '479. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 30 and the claims dependent therefrom are not anticipated by *Ren et al.* '479 and define patentably over *Ren et al.* '479, whether considered individually or in combination with *Ren*. Withdrawal of the rejections of the claims is cordially urged.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims, claims 30-60, are in condition for allowance. Allowance is cordially urged.

To the extent that any extensions of time are necessary in connection with this application it is requested that there be a standing petition for extension of time and that any additional fees that are required, or refunds due, in connection with this or any other paper filed in connection with this application be charged to Deposit Account 503015.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues, please contact the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

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